



FACT SHEET

Project Title:

Bellingham Bay Comprehensive Strategy – Whatcom Waterway Cleanup Site.

Proposed Action:

The Proposed Action consists of the cleanup of the Whatcom Waterway Site, in accordance with requirements of the Model Toxics Control Act (MTCA) and Sediment Management Standards (SMS) regulations. Cleanup of the Whatcom Waterway site is one element of the Bellingham Bay Comprehensive Strategy, a bay-wide guidance document developed through the Bellingham Bay Demonstration Pilot (Pilot), a 14 member federal, state, local and tribal partnership. The Bellingham Bay Comprehensive Strategy was presented by the Department of Ecology (Ecology) in a Final Environmental Impact Statement in October of 2000.

Ecology has issued for public review and comment a Draft Supplemental Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study (RI/FS), evaluating eight potential cleanup alternatives for the Whatcom Waterway site. The RI/FS identifies preferred cleanup alternatives based on MTCA evaluation criteria. The preferred alternatives are identified in the RI/FS as Alternatives “5” and “6”. Both alternatives conduct remediation of the Whatcom Waterway site using a combination of dredging with upland disposal, capping, institutional controls, and monitored natural recovery technologies. The RI/FS includes detailed evaluation of six other remedial alternatives that would accomplish the cleanup of the site in different ways.

This Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement: Bellingham Bay Comprehensive Strategy, Whatcom Waterway Cleanup Site (SEIS) evaluates potential environmental impacts associated with each of the eight remedial alternatives evaluated in the RI/FS document, and compares these to the impacts of a No Action alternative. The evaluation is conducted consistent with State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) requirements. In addition to these regulatory requirements the SEIS also evaluates consistency of the alternatives with the goals of the Bellingham Bay Demonstration Pilot.

The SEIS, the companion RI/FS and public comment on both documents will inform Ecology’s preliminary selection of a cleanup alternative for the Whatcom Waterway site. This alternative will be further detailed and available for public review in a draft Cleanup Action Plan (CAP). Following public review of the CAP, a final CAP will be issued with the final Supplemental EIS. The cleanup will then move forward into design permitting, construction and long-term monitoring.

Project Location:

The project is located within the inner, urbanized portion of Bellingham Bay. The Whatcom Waterway site includes aquatic lands located within and around the Whatcom Creek Waterway navigation channel, located near downtown Bellingham.

Proponent:

Port of Bellingham
P.O. Box 1677
Bellingham, Washington 98227-1677

Lead Agency:

Washington State Department of Ecology
P.O. Box 47775
Olympia, Washington 98504-7775

Responsible Official:

Steven M. Alexander
Toxics Cleanup Program Regional Manager

Washington State Department of Ecology
Northwest Regional Office
3190 160th Avenue SE
Bellevue, Washington 98008-5452

Contact Person:

Lucille T. McInerney, P.E.
Washington State Department of Ecology
Northwest Regional Office
3190 160th Avenue SE
Bellevue, Washington 98008-5452
(425) 649-7272
E-mail: lpeb461@ecy.wa.gov

Required Approvals:

Depending on the final cleanup alternative ultimately selected by Ecology, the following permits and other approvals may be required:

- Hydraulic Project Approval (HPA – Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife)
- Department of the Army Section 10 / Section 404 Permit (Corps of Engineers)
- Section 401 Approval (Ecology)
- Aquatic Use Authorization (Department of Natural Resources)
- Coastal Zone Management Certification (Ecology)
- Shoreline Substantial Development (City of Bellingham)
- ESA Compliance (National Marine Fisheries Service and United States Fish and Wildlife Service)

The cleanup action will be exempt from the procedural requirements of state and local permits if conducted pursuant to a MTCA administrative order or

consent decree issued by Ecology, however the substantive requirements of the applicable laws must be addressed.

Authors and Principal Contributors:

Washington State Department of Ecology
3190 160th Avenue SE
Bellevue, WA 98008-5452
Project Lead: Lucille T. McInerney, P.E.

The RETEC Group, Inc.
1011 SW Klickitat Way, Suite 207
Seattle, WA 98134-1162
Project Lead: John Guenther, LHG
Additional contributors include: Mark Larsen, Allison Crowley, Mike Byers, Jamie Stevens, Dan Berlin

Grette & Associates
151 S Worthen St, #101
Wenatchee, Washington 98801
Project Lead: Glenn Grette

Date of Issue:

October 10, 2006

Comments Due by:

December 9, 2006.
Submit to Lucille T. McInerney at above address or lpeb461@ecy.wa.gov

Public Meetings:

Public Meeting
October 26th, 2006
6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.
Bellingham Cruise Terminal
355 Harris Avenue
Bellingham, Washington

Public Meeting
November 30th, 2006
6:30 a.m. – 8:30 p.m.
Bellingham Municipal Court
2014 “C” Street
Bellingham, Washington

Cleanup Start Date:

The anticipated start date for site cleanup is fall of 2008. This date is subject to final Ecology determinations, and project engineering design and permitting.

Location of Draft SEIS and other documents available for review.

Department of Ecology
Bellingham Field Office
1204 Railroad Avenue, Suite 200
(360) 738-6250

Bellingham Public Library
210 Central Avenue, Bellingham
(360) 676-6860

Department of Ecology
Northwest Regional Office
3190 160th Avenue SE
Bellevue, Washington 98008-5452
(425) 649-7190 (Call for an appointment)

Ecology's Web Site:

http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/tcp/sites/bel_bay_sites.html

Costs to the Public:

An electronic copy of the draft EIS is available free of charge at Ecology's web site.

Printed copies can be obtained from Ecology subject to applicable reproduction charges.